

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, April 9, 1840,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, April 9, 1840.

My dear sir, I have recd. by due course of mail your letter of the 11[17?] of March last and can assure you there was no necessity for an apology for giving an extract of mine to the public; for I have full confidence if there was either bad spelling or bad grammar in it you would not give it to the public, and you are aware that I never put on paper but what is my real sentiments therefore, that is what the public is always welcome to. But I am afraid that there are some apostates in the Pennsylvania Legislature, some Penroses¹ whose principles bend before the money power—of this we will see, and I also fear that Governor Porter² made a bad move on the political chess board under other influence [than] that of real Democratic and republican principles. If he had not sent in his hasty Message, a triumph card in favour of Bankism all things would have gone on well in the Legislature of Pa. nothing will be done to

¹ Alluding to Charles B. Penrose, speaker of the Pennsylvania senate whose rulings in the preceding December (affair of the “Buckshot War”) had kept the Whigs in control of that body.

² David R. Porter, governor of Pennsylvania 1838–1845.

class=MsoNormal>0081 57 free that state from the present corrupt system of Banking or to relieve the labour of the country from the burden of a depreciated paper and paper system. I have viewed with great concern the corrupting influence of the Banks in the

Library of Congress

proceedings of that Legislature. The Banks must not be coerced to be honest is the cry or you destroy the people, When the people, the real working people are oppressed and cursed by a depreciated paper and the Banks, bankers, speculators and swindlers fattening at the expense of the labourer. I hate such hypocrisy, all these kind of lovers of the people are fostering, and fostered by the Banks, they are elected as democrats, but are bought in by the Banks—these are the present appearances, but we shall see.

I rejoice at the success of the Newjersy members. The Governor and his great seal are disgraced forever, and he ought to be indicted for perjury, and Randolph turned out of congress. 3 The frauds commit[ed] at the Election in the N.liberties of Philadelphia as the proof is coming will place a brand of infamy on modern Whiggery that must put down the opposition every where. I suppose Bells Bill is to correct the frauds and perjuries of his brother Whiggs.

3 See p. 43, note 1. J. M. Randolph held the sixth seat, which was not contested. The five Whig contestants had certificates of election under the broad seal of the state.

I am a[n]xious awaiting the vote on the constitutional Treasury bill, good sign. Hopkins 4 I see has abandoned Rives and declares for the Subtreasury. I repeat a good sign — he leaves Rives to entertain alone at the half way tavern—poor Rives he will become Bankrupt for the want of Gests, his is the fate of all apostates.

4 George W. Hopkins of Virginia, M. C. 1835–1847, 1957–1859.

I see the committee on printing has reported, but their report not Published, I see that arch hypocrite Garland 5 has made a minority report. he will be the only boarder with Rives at the half way house in virginia—starvation awaits them.

5 James Garland of Virginia, M. C. 1835–1851.

Library of Congress

I hope we will see you and family the ensuing summer, you will receive a hearty welcome at the Hermitage. Give all our kind regards to Mrs. Blair and your family and believe me sincerely yr friend